



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. Project Title: Butte Trap Club

2. Type of Proposed Action: Erecting perimeter fencing and warning signs

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The Butte Trap Club, also known as the Butte Trap and Skeet Club, is approximately 5 miles south of city center of Butte, Montana in Silver Bow County, on Gun Club road and occupies approximately 40 acres. The deed of title for transfer of the property on January 1938 is as follows: ...*The south one-half (S ½) of the North one-half (N ½) of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼); also the southwest quarter (SW ¼) of the southwest quarter (SW ¼) of the southwest (SW ¼) and the east half (E ½) of the south half (S ½) of the Southwest quarter (SW ¼) of the southwest quarter (SW ¼), all of Section eight (8), Township two (2) north, Range Seven (7) west of the Montana Principal Meridian, containing thirty (30) acres, more or less, excepting the west thirty (30) feet, for use as a public highway.*



Figure 1 – Butte Trap & Skeet Club Map with surrounding area

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

- (a)(i) shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*
- (ii) may not limit the number of members;*
- (iii) may charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*
- (iv) shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*
- (b) shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

5. Need for the Action(s):

The property boundaries for the Butte Trap & Skeet Club only have fencing on the south and a portion of the eastside, the entire range requires a secure security fence. There is also a need for warning signs of the potential

dangers and risks of entering the range area.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Erect a security fence, with warning signs around the west, north and portion of the east sides of the property.

7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

Site is a 40 acre parcel of land located south of Butte, MT as described in Paragraph 3 and Figure 1. The trap club has been on this site since 1938. However, the improvements are limited to a much smaller area, specifically the perimeter fencing and signs.

8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The range parcel is located on club owned property. Club range has been in existence since at least 1892 and has been on its present site since at least 1938. The surrounding area was rural and over the years the surrounding area has grown into primarily light industrial and commercial properties. However there are a few scattered residences within the local area. The club properties, shot fall out zones and safety zones are more than adequate for safe operations of the range.

9. Description of Project

The project is to erect 4260 feet of wire fencing around the perimeter of the shooting range. This fence will be four strand barbed wire, with wood poles, including eight (8) single braces, three (3) corner braces and two (2) gates. This fence project will also require a survey to locate property corners before erection of the fence. Warning signs will also be placed along the perimeter fence.

In Accordance With (IAW) contracts agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2012.

10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

None

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$6,677

11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: Butte 4-H holds shooting clinics at the club annually as do the Montana State Meatcutters who have a shoot during their annual meeting. In the past the FBI, Montana Power, Ducks Unlimited, and Boy Scouts have used the range for their shooting activities. The club is open for public shooting and encourages other user groups, including Hunter Education, to use the range facilities. Improvements to the range are estimated to increase the range usage for league shoots, registered shoots, and public shooting and for other user organizations.

12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: The current proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with

the associated project vendors and contractors.

13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Butte Trap & Skeet Club

14. Names, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Timothy F. Cassidy, P.O. Box 4402, Butte, MT 59702, (406) 723-5082

15. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: May 2, 2011.

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to erect a perimeter fence.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without security fence and warning signs.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** for erecting a perimeter fence.

The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be to not fund the improvements and the range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study: None

List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations): None

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas.

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it takes place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		#5
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the standards of safety for the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate law enforcement training, hunter education, and public shooting.

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range/alterd areas that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The 117 year history of the Butte Trap Club providing safe shooting opportunities to its members, the public, sportsmen, hunter education, youth groups, and local law enforcement all indicate support of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the improvements of the range complex of the WMFGA.

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore an EIS is not required.

PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Timothy F. Cassidy, Treasurer Butte Trap Club, P.O. Box 4402, Butte, MT 59702

Jim Jones, President Butte Trap Club, P.O. Box 4402, Butte, MT 59702

MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

MS Wildlife Management

Ecological Assessments

Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: July 24, 2011

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's website and through a legal ad in the Montana Standard newspaper announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.